

Final Conclusion

It's a matter of "Life" or "Death"

Are you a dead man walking?

Is man terribly sick and needs to be healed? No! Man is spiritually DEAD and he needs spiritual LIFE. We need to understand that it's not just that something is wrong or drastically wrong but that it's radically wrong. We are all born DEAD spiritually. If you're without the Lord Jesus Christ, you're spiritually dead. Ephesians 2:1 says, "*And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*"

The wages of sin

You see, the reason we're spiritually DEAD is that we're sinners. Who would stand up and deny that he has broken God's law? We know we all have. Ezekiel 18:20 says, "*The soul that sinneth, it shall die.*" We have a sinful nature. We inherited it from our parents, they from theirs; going all the way back to Adam. A simple proof of this is easily seen in the fact that you don't have to teach a two-year-old to lie or be manipulative.

David the psalmist said, "*In sin did my mother conceive me.*" That doesn't mean that she was a sinner when she conceived him. It means that he was conceived with a sinful nature. And that nature was a permanent part of him. We are all born into sin and therefore, DEAD, spiritually and are separated from God.

Separated from God

You may say, "Well, how can I be dead; I'm still existing?"

I'm standing here living and breathing." But death is not the separation of the soul or spirit from the body. Death is the separation of the soul or spirit from God.

Now don't get the idea we have to be saved to have eternal existence. We already have eternal existence. We will exist somewhere; either in HEAVEN to be with God for all eternity or after judgment be thrown into the lake of fire and be separated from God for all eternity (Rev.20:12-14). You see, we have an everlasting existence, but we don't have everlasting life until we have Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 14:6, "*I am the Way, the Truth, and the LIFE: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.*" He also said, "*To many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God..... (John 1:12).*"

The grace of God

There is not one thing, not one person who can help, but God; the grace of God. Ephesians 2:4 says God "*hath quickened us,*" and to quicken means to "*make us alive with Christ.*" Verse five concludes by saying it is "*..... by grace ye are saved.*" We cannot save ourselves any more than any physically dead person; by his own will and volition can come back to life. Thank God for His grace, which breathes back into man spiritual LIFE where there once was only spiritual DEATH and separation from God.

We're not saved by the merit of man but by the mercy of God. We're not alive by the goodness of man, but by the grace of God. Salvation is not a reward for the righteous. It is a gift for the guilty. Ephesians 2:8-9 continues, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of ourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*"

Let me explain:

A gift, of course, is a free and unconditional present. That is the ONLY basis, on which God offers salvation. The gift of God is salvation by GRACE through FAITH and it is offered to all people everywhere. It is not of works; that is, it is not something a person can earn through supposedly praiseworthy, deserving deeds. It cannot be earned, for instance by:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Church membership or church attendance
4. Confession to a priest
5. Mass
6. Holy Communion
7. Trying to keep the Ten Commandments
8. Trying to live by the Sermon on the Mount
9. Giving to charity
10. Trying to be a good neighbor
11. Trying to live a moral, respectable life: trying to be good person
12. Praying, etc., etc.

According to the Word of God, people are not saved by their works. And they are not saved by faith PLUS works. They're saved through faith ALONE. The minute you have works of any kind or in any amount as a means of gaining eternal life, salvation is no longer by grace (Rom. 11:6), it is no longer a gift of God.

One reason that works are positively excluded is to prevent human boasting. If anyone could be saved by his works, then he would have reason to boast before God. This is impossible (Rom. 3:27). All of our efforts, programs, reforms, and methods are in vain.

If anyone could be saved by his own good works, then the death of Christ was unnecessary (Gal. 2:21). If anyone could be saved by his own good works, then he would be his own savior, and could worship himself. But this would be idolatry, and God forbids it (Ex: 20:3). Finally, if anyone could contribute to his own salvation by works, then God would owe it to him. This, too, is impossible. God cannot be indebted to anyone (Rom. 11:35). To trust one's Creator and Redeemer is only logical and reasonable. If we cannot trust Him, who can we trust?

Thank God for His amazing grace and his free gift of His Son Christ Jesus who brings LIFE where there once was only DEATH and separation from God.

You need to ask yourself this important question: **"Am I a dead man walking in need of LIFE (salvation); in need of Christ Jesus?"**

Love Oscar